



State of Idaho

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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RECEIVED

August 5, 1993

ALLAN I. ANDROS  
GOVERNOR

Basin 34 Ground Water User:

Department of Water Resources  
Eastern District Office

On June 23, 1993 I sent a letter to Big Lost River water users who divert water below Mackay Dam with 1905 and earlier priority water rights. The letter was only sent to those water users who did not sign the "WATER MANAGEMENT PROPOSAL to DIRECTOR OF I.D.W.R." The purpose of the letter was to ask those water users for a written statement of their desire for mitigation water this irrigation season.

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The owners of 18 water rights responded they do want mitigation water this year as a result of ground water pumping. The table below shows the total diversion rate, in cubic feet per second (cfs), by priority date for these 18 water rights.

Priority	Diversion Rate
06/01/1880	0.160
05/01/1885	0.846
10/02/1885	9.100
06/01/1891	2.650
06/01/1895	0.400
06/01/1896	0.482
05/01/1897	0.095
09/01/1898	0.110
09/24/1900	2.300

As can be seen from the table, the total amount of water required for mitigation of these water rights this year will be relatively small, depending upon the natural flow of the Big Lost River below Mackay Dam.

To assist ground water users within Water District 34 who wish to continue to use their wells this year, the Water District has acquired some water that can be used for mitigation water this year. The purchase was approved by the advisory committee and the watermaster. The cost of the water will depend upon the amount of water actually required for mitigation this year but should not exceed \$2,400 and will most likely be less. The final purchase price must be reimbursed to the Water District by users of ground water rights, other than ground water rights for small domestic and stock water (small D&S) uses, who wish to continue to use their ground water rights this year.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS LETTER IS TO NOTIFY YOU THAT AS A GROUND WATER USER YOU WILL BE BILLED FOR AND EXPECTED TO PAY YOUR PROPORTIONATE SHARE OF THE COST OF THIS WATER.

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If you do not wish to pay your share of the cost for mitigation water this year you must notify the watermaster immediately, in writing, that you have stopped using your ground water right(s), other than small D&S, and will not use it for the remainder of this irrigation season or that you have not used your ground water right(s) at all this year and will not use it for the remainder of the irrigation season.


The proposal for reimbursement is to calculate a proportionate share for each ground water right, other than small D&S, that continues to be exercised after receipt of this letter by dividing the amount of each ground water right by the total of all ground water rights, other than small D&S, that continue to be used. The amounts for the water rights will be taken from the recommendations for those water rights in the SRBA Director's Report. The share of the actual cost of the water used computed for each ground water right will be added to next year's Water District billing for that ground water right.

The advisory committee and watermaster have taken steps to obtain commitments of water to the Water District that may be required for mitigation this year at minimal cost. Given the time of year and the small number of water rights seeking mitigation this approach is more reasonable than requiring each ground water user who continues to use their ground water right to provide a small amount of water. In the long run I believe the expenditure of even \$2,400 for the purchase of the water will be substantially less than the total collective cost to the Water District to accept, account for and deliver small amounts of mitigation water from individual ground water users to these 18 Big Lost River water rights.

I have also enclosed with this letter "NOTICE OF INTENT TO PROMULGATE RULES" for Water District 34. These rules will be used to guide water distribution by the Watermaster and are anticipated by Judge Hurlbutt's order granting interim administration of water rights using the SRBA Director's Report for Basin 34.

Once again, this letter is your notice of a pending assessment. In order to avoid the assessment you must **NOTIFY THE WATERMASTER IN WRITING** by August 17, 1993 that you have stopped using or will not use your ground water right(s), other than D&S, for the remainder of the irrigation season.

Yours truly,

  
R. KEITH HIGGINSON  
Director

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